September 29, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Capital Center Building
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:
Jeanette Collins  
Suzanne Conrad  
Diane Dellano  
Nicole Epps  
Mariam Gerges  
Aldina Hovde  
Corissa Kazar  
Patty Mojta  
Svetlana Shpiegel  
Sandy Starr  
Tiffany Tucker  
Wendi White

NJ CAP  
Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
World Childhood Foundation  
Bergen Family Center  
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Emrella  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Montclair State University  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Pediatrician, Advocare Pediatric Urgent Care  
NJ Department of Corrections

Guests:
Kim Pinto  
Karen Kenney  
Cecelia D’Elia  
Randy Bell  
David Seegert  
Francesca Cangeloso  
Kathleen Bress  
Kim Glazer  
Laura Lillian  
Lauren Balkan  
Michelle Davis  
Noel Hiers  
Brook Reinhardt  
Valerie Colletti  
Lynn Mallory  
Desiree Saab

NJ CAP  
Pinelands Regional School District SBYSP  
Hoboken High School SBYSP  
Brick Township SBYSP  
Brick Township SBYSP  
Hoboken High Scholl SBYSP  
Clayton Middle School/High School SBYSP  
Gloucester County Institute of Technology SBYSP  
Millville High School SBYSP  
Well Spring Center for Prevention  
Phillipsburg Middle School SBYSP  
Cape May SBYSP  
Phillipsburg High School SBYSP  
Passaic High School SBYSP  
Passaic Preparatory Academy SBYSP  
Barringer High School SBYSP
Staff:
Daniel Yale  
NJ Department of Children and Families

“In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Trenton Times and the Newark Star Ledger and posted at the Department of State, 125 West State St., 1st Floor, Trenton, New Jersey.”

*Please note the meeting is being recorded for the transcription of minutes. Please be sure to state your name prior to making comments, motions and seconding votes.

Welcome and Introductions

A brief welcome was provided by Patty Mojta and each attendee and guest briefly introduced themselves.

Review June 4, 2020 Minutes

June 4, 2020 minutes were approved without edit.

Discuss DCF Prevention Budget and Programs

Sandy Starr, Deputy Director of DCF Family and Community Partnerships (FCP), provided a brief introduction to the Committee. Regarding the Prevention Budget, Sandy explained that the Legislature had restored many of the budget cuts that affected prevention programming, including school-linked services, in FCP and that the budget is awaiting Governor Murphy’s approval.

Sandy informed the Committee that rather than providing an overview of the prevention programming provided by DCF, it would be more beneficial to put the discussion in the context of a plan. The Prevention Committee is tasked with developing the statewide Prevention Plan. Sandy explained that when he thinks of planning, he thinks of the five key questions: where are we now, where are we going, how do we get there, who do we take with us, and how do we know we got there? Sandy stated that he would like to turn the discussion to the members to describe some of the strengths and limitations of the state of child welfare prevention in NJ.

Strengths:
- Many organizations doing a lot of great things.

Limitations:
- All competing for the same funding pools. A lot of competition and not a lot of focused collaboration. Instead of working together, often working in silos.
• In NJ, we only have five protective factors when there should be six. NJ is missing nurturing and attachment. Focus on helping mothers earlier on.
• Lack of communication between state departments as well as frontline and state level work.
• Lack of interdepartmental collaboration.

Sandy felt that the theme that emerged was the need to have a more organized and thoughtful approach to service provision that is not siloed, not fragmented, ensures collaborations across systems, and takes a “first things first” approach. Patty stated that in addition to the idea that prevention work is raising awareness and early intervention, we need to remember that supportive services, non-stigmatizing support and being a natural support to families is also prevention. Svetlana stated that we also need to figure out how we can measure if programs are working. In prevention science, there is a specific way to measure prevention and the effectiveness of prevention programs. We have to be mindful of those definitions. Measurement is critical for the “how do we know we got there” piece of planning.

Workgroup Updates

Evidence-Based Workgroup
Aldina informed the Committee that she created the survey and shared it with the Committee for review. The survey is intended to determine what programs around the state are collecting in terms of data. This includes what type of data they are using, how they are tracking it, what types of software is available, how the data is being stored, what the budget is, etc. There have been a few responses to date, but the workgroup is hoping more members will respond. Aldina and Svetlana will review and discuss the survey prior to submitting to the Task Force for approval to be sent to outside agencies.

Outreach & Engagement
No updates at this time. Nicole Epps has agreed to chair the workgroup and to re-engage members.

Communication
Corissa explained that the group left off discussing COVID-19 and prevention messaging. They will be discussing collaboration with the Outreach & Engagement Workgroup.

Infrastructure & Resources
No updates at this time. Mariam Gerges has agreed to chair the Infrastructure & Resources workgroup and to re-engage members.

Visioning Exercise – Small Group Discussion for Strategic Prevention Plan
Sandy explained that, over the next several meetings, they would like the Committee to undertake a planning process to develop a strong Prevention Plan for 2021. Sandy state that he hoped the results of
this visioning exercise will result in obtaining the priorities of what the Prevention Plan will be focused on. The visioning exercise will allow members to think beyond the budget and think about where we would like prevention to be 10 years from now.

Patty informed the members that they would be split up and randomly put into breakout rooms. They were asked to envision reading a feature article in Newsweek 10 years into the future about the amazing prevention programming in NJ and what makes it amazing. The members were given 30 minutes for this exercise. Those that took notes during the small groups were asked to forward their notes to Patty. At the conclusion of the small group exercise, each of the groups provided a short summary of what they discussed. The notes will be compiled and presented to the group at a later date.

**Networking & Announcements**

Patty asked the members to provide updates and announcements as well as to share what their organization is doing regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each member provided updates and announcements to the Committee as well as what their organizations have been and will be doing in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting December 3, 2020